



The Berwyn Heights Maryland Police Department, Animal Welfare Investigation Unit, is issuing a rabies alert for the area of the 6100 blocks of Ruatan Street.

The alert is in response to a **RACCOON** that tested positive for the disease. Owner of the dog went outside and saw her dog fighting with a raccoon. They took the dead raccoon to Animal Control, and the raccoon was sent to CDC and tested for rabies. The family was notified by animal control that the raccoon was tested positive. The dog has been to the veterinarian and has received vaccines. The infected raccoon may have infected other animals in the area. Contact with all wildlife particularly raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, should be avoided.

If you or a family member has been bitten or scratched by any wildlife in the rabies alert area of Berwyn Heights or if you know anyone bit or scratched by said animals, you should seek medical attention and contact the Prince George's County Animal Management at (301) 780-7200.

Residents and visitors of Berwyn Heights should be aware that rabies is present in the wild animal population, and domestic animals are at risk if not vaccinated. The public is asked to maintain a heightened awareness that rabies is active in the area.

Alerts are designed to increase awareness to the residents. This alert should not give a false sense of security to areas that have not been named under this alert. This rabies alert is for 30 days or until further notice.

## **CAUTION:**

- All pets should have current rabies immunizations.
- Secure outside garbage in covered containers to avoid attracting wild animals.
- Do not leave pet food outside. This also attracts other animals.
- **Avoid contact with all wildlife**, especially feral cats, raccoons, bats, and foxes.
- If bitten or scratched by a suspected rabid animal, wash the wound immediately with soap and water, seek medical attention, and promptly report the incident to the BHPD (301)474-6554, or Prince George's County Animal Management (301) 780-7200.
- Rabies is preventable when treatment is provided in a timely manner.
- For general questions pertaining to animals, contact Pfc. C. Rufino Animal Welfare Investigation Unit at (301) 474-6554, or email at [CRufino@BerwynHeightsMD.gov](mailto:CRufino@BerwynHeightsMD.gov).